III.   REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 7, 20, and 26 are amended. Claims 1-38 are presented for further consideration.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3, 9-22, and 28-38 stand rejected under 35USC102(e) on the basis of the cited reference Warmus et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,332,149. Claims 4-8, and 23-27 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) based on the reference Warmus, in view of the cited reference Dickmeyer,et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,413,100. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7 and 26 are amended to remove the objection indicated by the Examiner. Claim 20 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Discussion of the Cited Reference

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 20 of this application under 35USC112 indicating that the phrase **"in a universal format, devoid of said customized formatting and any particulars unique to an originator of said complete book file"** is unclear.

A universal format, as referred to in this application is a digital file, in which the digital structure and codes of the originating software, hardware and operating system is absent. These components may be collectively referred to as the originating platform. In print-on-demand publishing, to which this application relates, the publishing process involves more than a collection of content, but also relates to the packaging and distribution of the content. The book file of

this application will likely be presented to diverse printing devices and platforms for printing. The term solution-independent is similar to platform or device independent.

It is, therefore, important, in the method and system of the claims of this application, that the original digital file be cleansed of the attributes of the originating platform so that it is solution, i.e. platform or device independent. Applicant submits that the phrase **"a solution-independent, intermediate format, in a universal format, devoid of said customized formatting and any particulars unique to an originator of said complete book file"** taken as a whole, is clear to an individual skilled in the art. Therefore Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection based on 35USC112 withdrawn.

The Examiner continues to rely on the reference Warmus to support the rejection based on anticipation and as primary support for the rejection based on obviousness.

The Examiner has mistaken textual content with digital format or structure. The system of the reference Warmus relates to the former while the system and method of this application relate to the latter. In support of the rejection, the Examiner refers to the use of a PDL file as **"converting said book files to have a solution-independent, intermediate format, in a universal format, devoid of said customized formatting and any particulars unique to an originator of said complete book file"**. A PDL file is defined as follows:

"A page description language (PDL) specifies the arrangement of a printed page through commands from a computer that the printer carries out. Hewlett Packard's Printer Control Language (PCL) and

Adobe's Postscript are the two most commonly used PDLs." (whatis.techtarget.com/)

The use of PDL language indicates the page layout focus of the cited reference. In Warmus, the book is prepared as a template file divided into separate template pages for information that remains the same from one copy to the next and separate template pages for information that varies from one copy to the next. The PDL language enables the textual content flexibility to which the system of Warmus is directed.

The fixed content portion of the template file of Warmus is maintained as a separate file "stripped" of the variable content, while the variable content portion of the template file is maintained as another separate file "stripped" of the fixed content. The examiner likens this stripping step of Warmus to the conversion of the book file of this application to a solution-independent format, but it has nothing to do with format.

As previously indicated, the problem attempted to be solved in Warmus is a page file problem and treats the data files on a page by page basis, whereas the solution of the subject invention requires the processing of an entire book file. Warmus results in the customization of individual pages of a book during printing of multiple copies. In the system of this invention, all of the pages are processed in the same manner, with respect to content, while the entire book file may be transferred and converted to accommodate solution, or platform, or device dependent needs of a particular publisher.

In column 11, lines 10-29 of the reference Warmus, the purpose and use of the stripped working files is explained. The Examiner's attention is directed to the absence of a discussion of format or any changes therein. Based on this description, applicant submits that the process of Warmus is unrelated to the

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process and system of this application. The solution-independent and solution-dependent formatted book files of the claims of this application are entirely different than the fixed and variable text page files of Warmus. The processing of the page files of Warmus causes an entirely different result than the processing of the book files in this application. Accordingly the cited reference Warmus does not support the rejection either based on anticipation or obviousness.

All of the claims of this application are directed to a method and system for reproducing books having the following features:

"a) receiving as a complete book file, including a book block, a digital representation, with customized formatting, of a book targeted for reproduction;

b) converting said complete book file to have a solution-independent, intermediate format, in a universal format, devoid of said customized formatting and any particulars unique to an originator of said complete book file;

c) storing said solution-independent, intermediate formatted book file along with book identification information as a mastered book;

d) converting said solution-independent, intermediate formatted book file to a solution-dependent formatted book file to match the needs of a particular book reproduction system; and

e) reproducing said book from information comprised by said solution-dependent formatted book file."

As explained above, the above features are not taught in the reference Warmus. Since these features are not present in the system of the reference Warmus, the teaching of Warmus does not support the rejection based on anticipation with respect to any of the claims.

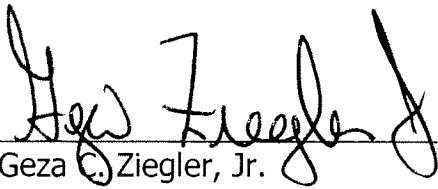Equivalent language appears in independent claim 20.

Applicant submits that the above described deficiencies of the primary reference Warmus are not remedied by the proposed combination with the teaching of the reference Dickmeyer. The combined references do not therefore support a prima-facie case of obviousness. The modification of the teachings of Warmus or Dickmeyre, in order to obtain the invention, as described in the claims submitted herein, would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

The above arguments apply equally to the rejected dependent claims.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of $120.00 for a one-month extension of time as well as for any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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19 July 2006
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